

# **NITC eHealth Council**

## **Need for an eHealth Council**

A state-sponsored eHealth initiative is needed in Nebraska to:

- Assess the current adoption of eHealth technologies;
- Make recommendations on how the state should promote the adoption of eHealth technologies;
- Provide coordination among eHealth initiatives in Nebraska; and
- Enable the State of Nebraska to more competitively seek funding for eHealth initiatives.

## **Advisory Groups in Other States**

Many states have formed advisory groups to assess the current adoption of eHealth technologies in the state and to make recommendations on how the state should promote the adoption of eHealth technologies.

- At least 10 governors have issued executive orders creating a task force/commission or otherwise promoting e-health.
- 22 states have passed legislation creating a task force/commission or otherwise promoting e-health.
- In several states, health providers and payers have formed groups (often non-profits) to exchange health information.

## **Charge to the eHealth Council**

The eHealth Council is charged with:

- Reviewing the current status of healthcare information technology adoption by the healthcare delivery system in Nebraska;
- Addressing potential security, privacy and other issues related to the adoption of interoperable healthcare information technology in Nebraska;
- Evaluating the cost of using interoperable healthcare information technology by the healthcare delivery system in Nebraska;
- Identifying private resources and public/private partnerships to fund efforts to adopt interoperable healthcare information technology;
- Supporting and promoting the use of telehealth as a vehicle to improve healthcare access to Nebraskans; and
- Recommending best practices or policies for state government and private entities to promote the adoption of interoperable healthcare information technology by the healthcare delivery system in Nebraska.

## **Membership**

The eHealth Council will not exceed 25 members and will include representatives of:

- The State of Nebraska
- Health Care Providers
- eHealth Initiatives
- Public Health
- Payers and Employers
- Consumers (at least 3)
- Resource Providers, Experts, and Others if Deemed Appropriate by the NITC

Staff have proposed the following configuration:

- The State of Nebraska/Federal Government (4)
- Health Care Providers (5)
  - Hospitals/NHA
  - Physicians/NMA
  - Pharmacists
  - Long-term health
  - Rural Health
- eHealth Initiatives (4)
  - Telehealth network
  - NEHII
  - Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange
  - Other--Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Group??
- Public Health (4)
- Payers and Employers (3)
- Consumers (3)
- Resource Providers, Experts, and Others if Deemed Appropriate by the NITC (2)

## **Time Frame and Process**

- The creation of the eHealth Council will be proposed to the NITC at their meeting on Feb. 22, 2007.
- If approved by the NITC, the eHealth Council will hold its initial meeting in the Spring of 2007.
- The eHealth Council will likely convene a stakeholder forum to solicit input and build stakeholder support.
- The proposed eHealth Council will work with existing eHealth groups and initiatives including the HISPC Steering Committee and the NITC Telehealth Subcommittee.
- The eHealth Council may form work groups on specific issues.
- The eHealth Council will likely complete an initial assessment of eHealth technologies and preliminary recommendations by late 2007.
- The eHealth Council will likely continue to meet periodically to provide guidance to the NITC on issues related to eHealth.